

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /026 W
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O 251424 Z MAY 73 ZFF6
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8923

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0963
STADIS EXDIS/////////////////////////////////
E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, MOPS, RH, ZA
SUBJECT: MAY 15 BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: LUSAKA 0955

1. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE
IMMEDIATELY PASSED TO EXTAFF.

2. QUOTE: EXTERNAL OTT (GAA CRO) . REF: OUR TEL 427 MAY 24

SUBJECT: RESPONSE FROM MINISTER.

FOLLOWING IS PERSONAL LETTER FROM FONMIN MUDENDA TO EXTAFF MIN
WHICH WAS DELIVERED TO MY RESIDENCE AT 1300 HRS MAY 25. WE WILL BE
SENDING SOME COMMENTS THROUGH DSLAM LATE TOMORROW.

3. DEAR MINISTER, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY OUR DEEP FELT
CONDOLENCES TO YOU, THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF CANADA AND IN
PARTICULAR THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF THE TWO CANADIAN NATIONALS
WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE TRAGIC SHOOTING INCIDENT IN THE
ZAMBEZI GORGE ON THE 15 TH MAY. THE PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF ZAMBIA DEEPLY REGRET THE DEATHS OF THESE INNOCENT CANADIAN
NATIONALS.

4. THE CIRCUMSTANCES BEHIND THE TRAGIC INCIDENT HAVE BEEN FULLY
INVESTIGATED. I HAVE BEEN TO LIVINGSTONE TO SEE THE EXCLUSIVE
AREA IN WHICH THE INCIDENT TOOK PLACE. I CONFIRM THAT IT IS
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INACCESSIBLE TO NORMAL VISITORS. NOBODY HAS EVER BEEN IN THIS AREA SINCE OUR SECURITY FORCES TOOK UP POSITION IN DEFENCE OF THE POWER STATION.

5. ZAMBIA IS VERY MUCH CONSCIOUS OF THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THAT CANADA IS MAKING TOWARDS ZAMBIA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. CANADA WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RESPOND WITH MASSIVE AID FOR ZAMBIA TO HELP HER COPE WITH THE CURRENT EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE BORDER CLOSURE. WE ARE ALSO CONSCIOUS OF AND DEEPLY APPRECIATE CANADA'S POSITIVE STAND IN MATTERS RELATING TO HUMAN JUSTICE AND IN PARTICULAR THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MANY CANADIAN NATIONALS ARE ENGAGED IN SEVERAL PROJECTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE BOTH IN OUR URBAN AND RURAL AREAS. BESIDES, WE HAVE SEVERAL ZAMBIANS WHO HAVE TRAINED OR ARE TRAINING IN CANADA. LAST YEAR A CANADIAN AND A ZAMBIAN LOST THEIR LIVES IN YOUR COUNTRY IN THE CAUSE OF STRENGTHENING OUR RELATIONS.

6. IT IS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THIS GROWING CANADIAN- ZAMBIAN CO- OPERATION THAT WE REGRET THE UNTIMELY DEATHS OF THE TWO GIRLS. GOVERNMENT HAS MADE A STATEMENT ON THE INCIDENT. IT MUST NOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION, BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TENSION ON THE RHODESIA- ZAMBIA BORDER. AS YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE, ZAMBIA IS VIRTUALLY AT WAR WITH THE DSTQ T# REGIME IN SALISBURY/* THE SITUATION IS ACCENTUATED BY THE FACT THAT WE ARE SUBJECTED TO CONSTANT UNPROVOKED MILITARY ATTACKS BY RHODESIAN, SOUTH AFRICAN AND PORTUGUESE FORCES. EIGHTEEN ZAMBIAN NATIONALS HAVE BEEN KILLED FROM LANDMINE EXPLOSIONS SINCE THE BORDER CLOSURE ON 9 TH JANUARY. THEIR DEATHS ARE A CLEAR TESTIMONY OF THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION UNFOLDING IN OUR REGION. DURING THE WEEK OF THE

ZAMBIAN GORGE INCIDENT INVOLVING THE TWO CANADIAN NATIONALS, ONE ZAMBIAN VILLAGE WAS BOMBED BY SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT ON 14 MAY. TWO LANDMINES PLANTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS EXPLODED AT THE BOMBED VILLAGE ON THE 20 TH MAY, KILLING FIVE ZAMBIANS AND WOUNDING MANY OTHERS.

7. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO BLOW UP OUR VITAL INSTALLATIONS. IT IS IN THIS TENSE ATMOSPHERE OF CONFRONTATION
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THAT THE TWO CANADIAN NATIONALS WERE CAUGHT UP.

8. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEATHS OF THE CANADIAN NATIONALS MUST SQUARELY LIE WITH THE REBEL REGIME IN SALISBURY TOGETHER WITH THEIR SOUTH AFRICAN COLLABORATORS. THEY SHOULD HAVE ADVISED THEIR TOURISTS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THIS TENSE AREA. THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND RHODESIANS KNEW THAT THE ZAMBIAN BORDER

IS CLOSED. THEY KNOW ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF OUR FORCES ON THE
BORDER PARTICULARLY IN SENSITIVE AREAS. WE ALSO KNOW ABOUT THE
EXISTENCE OF RHODESIAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN THE VICTORIA
FALLS AREA SINCE 1967.

9. THE REBEL REGIME SHOWED A RECKLESS ATTITUDE TO THE WHOLE
MATTER AND CANNOT
E E E E E E E

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS, EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUSAKA00963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730554/aaaajtkp.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS, STADIS
Reference: 73 LUSAKA 0955
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 11 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980305
Subject: MAY 15 BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT
TAGS: CASC, MOPS, RH, ZA
To: OTTAWA
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005